HIS

MAIESTIES DECLARATION

To both Houſes of PARLIAMENT,

(Which He likevviſe recommends to the conſideration of all His loving Subjects)

In Anſwer to That preſented to Him at *New-market*, March 9. 1641.

Printed at *Edinburgh*, 1642.

RB 23 a 10060

His Majesties Declaration to both Houses of Parliament, (which He likewise recommends to the consideration of all His loving Subjects) in Answere to that presented to Him at *New-market*, March 9. 1641.

THough the Declaration lately presented to Us at *New-market*, from both Our Houses of Parliament, bee of so strange a nature, in respect of what Wee expected (after so many acts of Grace and Favour to Our people) and some expressions in it so different from the usuall language to Princes, that We might well take a very long time to consider it; Yet the clearnesse and uprightnesse of Our Conscience to God, and love to Our Subjects, hath supplyed Us with a speedy answer, and Our unalterable Affection to Our people prevailed with Us, to suppresse that passion, which might well enough become Us, upon such an invitation.

We have reconsidered Our answer of the first of this Moneth at *Theobalds*, which is urged to have given just cause of sorrow to Our Subjects. Whosoever looks over that message (which was in effect to tell Us, That if We would not joyne with them (in an Act which we conceived might prove prejudiciall and dangerous to Us and the whole Kingdome) they would make a law without Us, and impose it upon Our People) will not think that sudden Answer can be excepted to.

We have little encouragement to replies of this nature, when We are told of how little value Our words are like to be with you, though they come accompanied with all the actions of love and Justice, (where there is roome for Actions to accompany them) yet we cannot but disavow the having any such evil Counsel or Counsellors about Us, to Our knowledge, as are mentioned; and if any such be discovered, We will leave them to the censure and Judgement of our Parliament: in the mean time. We could wish, that Our own immediat actions which Wee avow, and Our owne honour might not bee so roughly censured and wounded, under that common stile of Evill Counsellours.

For Our faithful and zealous affection to the true Protestant profession

ſeſſion, and Our reſolution to concur with Our Parliament, in any poſſible courſe for the propagation of it, and ſuppreſſion of Popery, We can ſay no more then We have already expreſſed in Our Declaration to all Our loving Subjects, publiſhed in January laſt, by the advice of Our privie Councel, in which We endeavoured to make as lively a confeſſion of Our Self, in this point as We were able, being moſt aſſured that the conſtant practice of Our life hath been anſwerable thereunto: And therefore Wee did rather expect a teſtimony and acknowledgement of ſuch Our zeal and piety, then thoſe expreſſions We met with in this Declaration, of any deſigne of altering Religion in this Kingdom. And Wee doe (out of the innocency of Our ſoul) wiſh, that the Judgements of heaven may bee manifeſted upon thoſe, who have, or had any ſuch deſigne.

As for the Scots troubles, We had well thought that thoſe unhappie differences had been wrapt up in perpetuall ſilence, by the Act of Oblivion, which being ſolemnly paſt in the Parliaments of both Kingdoms, ſtops Our mouth from any other reply, then to ſhew Our great diſlike for reviving the memory thereof.

If the Rebellion in *Ireland* (ſo odious to all Chriſtians) ſeems to have bin framed & maintained in *England*, or to have any countenance from hence, We conjure both Our Houſes of Parliament, & al Our loving Subjects whatſoever, to uſe all poſſible means to diſcover and find ſuch out, that We may joyn in the moſt exemplary vengeance upon them that can be imagined: But We muſt think Our Self highly and cauſleſly injured in Our reputation, if any Declaration, Action, or Expreſſion of the Iriſh Rebels, any Letter from Count *Roſettie* to the Papiſts, for faſting & praying or from *Treſtrani Whitcombe*, of ſtrange ſpeeches uttered in *Ireland*, ſhal beget any jealouſie, or miſapprehenſion in our Subjects of our Juſtice, piety and affection, it being evident to al underſtandings, That thoſe miſchievous and wicked Rebels, are not ſo capable of great advantage, as by having their falſe diſcourſes ſo far beleeved, as to raiſe fears and jealouſies to the diſtraction of this Kingdom, the onely way to their ſecurity: And Wee cannot expreſſe a deeper ſenſe of the ſuffering of Our poor Proteſtant Subjects in that Kingdom, then We have done in Our often Meſſages to both Houſes, by which We have offered, and are ſtill ready to venture Our Royall Perſon for their Redemption, well knowing, that as We are (in Our own Intereſt) more concerned in them, ſo We

are

are to make a ſtrict Accompt to Almighty God for any neglect of Our duty, or their preſervation.

For the manifold attempts to provoke Our late Army, and the Army of the *Scots*, and to raiſe a Faction in the City of *London*, and other parts of the Kingdome; If it be ſaid, as relating to Us, Wee cannot without great indignation, ſuffer Our Self to be reproached, to have intended the leaſt Force or threatning to Our Parliament; as the being privie to the bringing up of the Armie would imply: Whereas We call God to witneſſe, we never had any ſuch thought, or knew of any ſuch reſolution concerning Our late Armie.

For the Petition ſhewed to Us by Captain *Legg*, We well remember the ſame, and the occaſion of that Conference: Captain *Legg* being lately come out of the North, and repairing to Us at *White-hall*, We asked him of the ſtate of our army, & (after ſome relation made of it) he told Us, That the Commanders and officers of the armie had a minde to Petition the Parliament, as other of Our people had done, & ſhewed Us the copy of a Petition, which we read, and finding it to be very humble, deſiring the Parliament might receive no interruption in the Reformation of the Church and State, to the model of Queen *Elizabeths* dayes; We told him, We ſaw no harm in it: Whereupon he replied, That he beleeved all the Officers of the Army would like it, onely he thought Sir *Jacob Aſhely* would be unwilling to ſigne it, out of fear that it might diſpleaſe Us. We then read the Petition over again, and then obſerving nothing in matter or form We conceived could poſſibly give juſt cauſe of offence, We delivered it to him again, bidding him give it to Sir *Jacob Aſhely*, for whole ſatisfaction We had written *C. R.* upon it, to teſtifie Our approbation; & We wiſh that the Petition might be ſeen and publiſhed, and then We beleeve it will appear no dangerous one, nor a juſt ground for the leaſt jealouſie, or miſapprehenſion.

For Mr *Jermyn*, it is wel known that he was gone from *White-hal* before We received the deſires of both houſes for the reſtraint of Our ſervants, neither returned he thither, or paſſed over by any Warrant granted by Us after that time.

For the breach of Priviledge in the Accuſation of the Lord *Kymbolton*, and the five Members of the Houſe of Commons, We thought We had given ſo ample ſatisfaction in Our ſeverall Meſſages to that purpoſe, that it ſhould be no more preſſed,

againſt Us, being confident, if the breach of Priviledge had been greater then hath beene ever before offered, Our acknowledgement and retractation hath been greater then ever King hath given, beſides the not examining how many of Our priviledges have been invaded in defence and vindication of the other; And therefore We hoped Our true and earneſt Proteſtation in Our anſwer to your Order concerning the *Militia*, would ſo far have ſatisfied you of Our intentions then, that you would no more have entertained any imagination of any other deſigne then Wee there expreſſed.

But why the liſting of ſo many Officers, and entertaining them at *Whitehall* ſhould be miſconſtrued, We much marvel, when it is notoriouſly knowne, the tumults at *Weſtminſter* were ſo great, and their demeanours ſo ſcandalous and ſeditious, that We had good cauſe to ſuppoſe Our own Perſon, and thoſe of Our Wife and Children to be in apparant danger, and therefore Wee had great reaſon to appoint a guard about Us, and to accept the dutifull tender of the ſervices of any of Our loving Subjects, which was all We did to the Gentlemen of the Innes of Court.

For the Lord *Digby*, We aſſure you in the word of a King, that he had Our warrant to paſſe the ſeas, and had left the Court before We ever heard of the Vote of the Houſe of Commons, or had any cauſe to imagine that his abſence would have beene excepted againſt.

What your Advertiſements are from *Rome*, *Venice*, *Paris*, and other parts, or what the *Popes Nuncio* ſollicites the Kings of *France* or *Spain* to do, or from what perſons ſuch informations come to you, or how the credit and reputation of ſuch perſons have been ſifted and examined, We know not; but are confident, no ſober honeſt man in Our Kingdoms can beleeve, that Wee are ſo deſperate or ſo ſenſleſſe, to entertain ſuch deſignes, as would not only bury this Our Kingdom in ſudden diſtraction and ruine, but Our own Name and poſterity in perpetuall ſcorne and infamy. And therefore Wee could have wiſhed, that in matters of ſo high and tender a nature (wherewith the minds of Our good Subjects muſt needs be ſtartled) all the expreſsions were ſo plain and eaſie, that nothing might ſtick with them with reflection upon Us, ſince you thought fit to publiſh it at all.

And having now dealt thus plainly and freely with you by way of Anſwer to the particular grounds of your Fears, We hope

(upon

(upon a due consideration and weighing both together) you will not find the Grounds to be of that moment to beget, or longer to continue a misunderstanding betwixt Us, or force you to apply your selves to the use of any other power then what the Law hath given you, the which We alwayes intend shall be the measure of our own power, and expect it shal be the rule of Our Subjects obedience.

Concerning our Fears & Jealousies, as We had no intention of accusing you, so are We sure no words spoken by Us (on the sudden) at *Theobalds* wil bear that interpretation. We said, for Our residence neer you, We wisht it might be so safe & Honourable, that we had no cause to absent Our self from *White-hal*, and how this can be a breach of Priviledge of Parliament, We cannot understand. We explained Our meaning in Our answer at *Newmarket*, at the Presentation of this Declaration concerning the Printed seditious Phamphlets and Sermons, & the great tumults at *Westminster*: And We must appeal to you and all the world, whether We might not justly suppose Our self in danger of either. And if We were now at *White-Hall*, what security have We, that the like shal not be again, especially if any Delinquents of that nature have beene apprehended by the Ministers of Justice, and bin rescued by the People, and so as yet escape unpunished? If ye have not been informed of the seditious words used in, and the circumstances of those Tumults, and will appoint some way for the examination of them, We will require some of Our learned Councell to attend with such evidence as may satisfie you, and till that be done, or some other course taken for Our security, you cannot (with reason) wonder that We intend not to bee where We most desired to be.

And can there yet want evidence of Our hearty & importunate desire to joyn with our Parliament, and all our faithfull Subjects, in defence of the Religion & publike good of the Kingdom? Have We given you no other earnest but words, to secure you of those desires? The very Remonstrance of the House of Commons (published in *November* last) of the state of the Kingdom, allows Us a more real testimony of Our good Affections then words: that Remonstrance valued Our Acts of Grace and justice at so high a rate, that it declared the Kingdom to be then a gainer, though it had charged it self by Bils of Subsidies and Pol-money, with the leavy of 600000 pounds, besides the contracting of a Debt to

Our

Our Scots Subjects of 220000 pounds.

Are the Bils for the Trienniall Parliament, For relinquishing Our Tittle of Imposing upon merchandize, & power of Pressing of Souldiers, For the taking away the Star-Chamber, and high Commission Courts, For the Regulating the Councell Table, but words? Are the Bils for the Forests, The Stannery Courts, The Clerk of the Market, and the taking away the Votes of Bishops out of the Lords House, but words? Lastly, what gteater earnest of Our trust and reliance on Our Parliament could or can Wee give, then the passing of the Bill for the continuance of this present Parliament? The length of which We hope will never altar the nature of Parliaments, and the Constitution of this Kingdom, or invite Our Subjects so much to abuse Our Confidence, as to esteem any thing fit for this Parliament to do, which were not, if it were in our power to dissolve it to morrow. And after all these, and many other Acts of Grace on Our part (that We might be sure of a perfect Reconciliation betwixt Us and all Our Subjects? We have offered, and are still ready to grant a free and generall Pardon, as ample as your selves shall think fit. Now if these be not real expressions of the Affections of Our Soul, for the publike good of Our Kingdom, We must confesse that We want skill to manifest them.

To conclude (although We think Our Answer already full to that point) concerning Our Return to *London*: We are willing to Declare, that We look upon it as a matter of so great weight, as with reference to the affairs of this Kingdom, and to Our own inclinations and desires, that if all We can say, or do, can raise a mutuall Confidence (the onely way with Gods blessing to make us all happy) and by your incouragement the Laws of the Land, and the Government of the City of *London*, may recover some life for Our Security, We will overtake your desires, and be as soon with you as you can wish. And in the mean time. We will be sure, that neither the businesse of *Ireland*, or any other advantage for this Kingdome shall suffer through Our default, or by our absence: We being so far from repenting the Acts of Our Justice, and Grace, which We have already performed to Our People, that We shall with the same Alacrity, be still ready to add such new Ones, as may best advance the Peace, Honour, and prosperity of this Nation.

FINIS.